

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for enabling information  
associations which parses objects contained within a  
document such a Web page, in order to form a list of  
"metalink" objects within the document for which related  
information may be available. Visual indications of  
metalink objects within the document may be provided  
10 automatically, or in response to a user action requesting  
such indications be made, and may include any kind of  
modification to the visual display of the metalink objects  
or to the cursor as it is moved over or near the metalink  
objects. User selection of a metalink object, for example  
clicking on the display of a metalink object, is further  
15 detected. In response to such user selection of a metalink  
object, a database is searched for information related to  
the selected metalink object, including pointers or links to  
other documents. The search results ("metadata") are then  
displayed, for example in a pop-up window. Metadata may be  
20 weighted in terms of their perceived relevancy to a user of  
the local system, or to a group of users spread across  
multiple systems, or to all users, based on monitoring of  
activities performed on one or more client systems by client  
side software.

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